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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,462	02/05/2007	Ryuji Ueno	Q76937	1105
23373 7590 12/11/2009 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
EXAMINER CARTER, KINDRA D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1627				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/11/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/567,462

Applicant(s)

UENO ET AL.

Examiner

KENDRA D. CARTER

Art Unit

1627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8, 10-13 and 17-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/19/07-2/23/07-2/7/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 14-20 are new. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 9 and 14-21, and election of 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl PGF2 α isopropyl ester in the reply filed on September 17, 2009 is acknowledged. The requirement is thus deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 17-20 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thornton*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 9 and 14-16 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 3, 6, 12 and 14 of copending Application No. 11/794,120 ('120), in view of Johnstone (US 6,262,105 B1). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The Application '120 teach a method of treating the scalp and/or hair comprising applying an effective amount of a menthol derivative and a prostaglandin compound having two heteroatoms at the 15 position topically such as 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl PGF₂ α isopropyl ester (see claims 6 and 14).

Application '120 does not specifically teach a method to promote hair growth.

Johnstone teach that prostaglandin PGF α 2 compounds stimulate hair growth (see abstract).

One skilled in the art would use prostaglandin to promote hair growth because Johnstone teach that prostaglandin PGF α 2 compounds stimulate hair growth (see abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnstone (US 6,262,105 B1) in view of Skuballa et al. (US 4,088,775).

Johnstone teach that prostaglandin $\text{PGF}\alpha_2$ compounds stimulate hair growth (see abstract and column 9, lines 1-55). Particularly, $\text{PGF}\alpha$ analogues stimulate cell surface receptors, which activate a family of protein kinases that are fundamental in cell growth (see column 8, lines 19-27). $\text{PGF}\alpha$ analogues also alter tensegrity that can direct induction of DNA replication and stimulate cell division, prevention of apoptosis and prolong the hair cycle. By increasing the duration of the cell cycle, the interval in the anagen phase may be increased permitting hypertrophy of the follicles with longer and thicker hairs (see column 8, lines 29-33 and 50-59).

Johnstone does not teach the specific elected compound 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl $\text{PGF}2\alpha$ isopropyl ester.

Skuballa et al. teach that compounds like 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl $\text{PGF}2\alpha$ isopropyl ester (see column 3, lines 1-48) have an activity spectrum similar to but stronger and longer lasting activity than the corresponding natural prostaglandins (see abstract). Particularly, it is generally known that the physiological effects of the prostaglandins are only of short duration in the mammalian organism as well as in vitro, since they are rapidly converted into pharmacologically inactive metabolic products.

Thus, a physiologically inactive metabolite is formed by oxidation of the allylic hydroxy function on the C-15 atom (see column 2, lines 21-34).

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious and motivated to combine the teaching of Johnstone and 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl PGF2 α isopropyl ester because Skuballa et al. teach that compounds such as the elected compound have an activity spectrum similar to but stronger and longer lasting activity than the corresponding natural prostaglandins (see abstract) because they are not easily metabolized (see column 2, lines 21-34) to the inactive prostaglandin. Thus, one skilled in the art would expect 13,14-dihydro-15,15-ethylenedioxy-20-ethyl PGF2 α isopropyl ester to have similar activities as taught in Johnstone because it is a PGF2 α derivative, in which should have better activity as then other PGF2 α derivatives because of the teachings of Skuballa et al.

Conclusion

No claims allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KENDRA D. CARTER whose telephone number is (571)272-9034. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kendra D Carter/
Examiner, Art Unit 1627

/SREENI PADMANABHAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1627